

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 27, as follows:

1. to 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) An ink tank according to Claim 28,
wherein the light emitted from the light emitting section reaches the
reflecting surface along the incidence path in which ink and air thereon are present, and the
reflected light reaches the light receiving section along the reflection path in which air and
ink are present, the reflection path being almost the same as the incidence path, and
wherein said optical reflector is disposed on a portion to cause a change in
received light quantity by the light receiving section, the change in received light quantity
being based on a change of distance over which the light travels through the ink, the
change of distance being based on a change of an ink level with a use of the ink.

19. (Previously Presented) An ink tank according to Claim 27, wherein
said optical reflector is integrated with an information storage element to construct an ink
remaining amount sensing module.

20. (Previously Presented) An ink tank according to Claim 19, wherein the
ink remaining amount sensing module is disposed to face an outer surface of a housing of

said ink tank, and is constructed to transmit and receive information to and from an external device via an electrical contact disposed on a part facing the outer surface.

21. (Previously Presented) An ink tank according to Claim 19, wherein the ink remaining amount sensing module is disposed on an outer surface of a housing of said ink tank, and is constructed to transmit and receive information to and from an external device in a non-contact manner.

22. to 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An ink tank comprising:

a rigid housing having a bottom wall and a top wall connected by a side wall therebetween, wherein the bottom wall is positioned at a bottom of the ink tank when the ink tank is in an in-use orientation, the housing including an ink accommodating chamber constructed for direct accommodation of ink;

an ink supply port to supply ink to an outside of the ink tank, wherein the ink supply port is positioned in the bottom wall; and

a horizontal wall extending horizontally from the side wall to face the bottom wall, wherein at least a portion of the bottom wall facing the horizontal wall is light transmissive;

wherein the ink tank further comprises an optical reflector disposed on an ~~inside surface of~~ the horizontal wall so that a reflecting surface of the optical reflector faces the bottom wall of the ink tank.

28. (Previously Presented) An ink tank according to Claim 27, wherein the ink tank is detachably attached to an inkjet printing apparatus in an orientation in which the ink supply port faces downward in a vertical direction, and wherein the inkjet printing apparatus includes a light emitting section for emitting a light toward the optical reflector provided on the inside of the horizontal wall of the ink tank and a light receiving section for receiving light emitted toward and reflected by the optical reflector.

29. (Previously Presented) An ink tank according to Claim 28, wherein an amount of ink in the ink tank is detected by combining a dot count method to count the number of ink ejection from an inkjet printing head provided on the inkjet printing apparatus to which the ink tank is detachably attached with a method to utilize the optical reflector provided on the ink tank.

30. (Previously Presented) An ink tank according to Claim 27, wherein the disposition of the optical reflector provided on the ink tank is suitable for a case that a pigment ink is accommodated in the ink tank.